

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #71A-24 Building Date: ca. 1900

Building Name: Mentzer House (Pinch House)

Location: 6601 Hillmeade Road, Bowie, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Excellent/Inaccessible

Description

The Mentzer (Pinch) House is a small one-story frame gable-roofed building with multiple additions, which rests on a high basement. It stands on a two-acre lot immediately south of the old Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis Railroad right-of-way. The main block is long and narrow, its west facade facing towards Hillmeade (formerly Springfield) Road. To the rear is a dining room and kitchen ell, probably original to the structure. Entrance is in the first bay of the west facade, into the north-most of two parlors. A shed-roof addition has been constructed along the entire west facade. The northmost section of this addition serves as an entry hall for the main entrance, while the southmost section forms a sunporch which rests on brick piers; beneath it, one can enter the basement at ground level. There is an exterior chimney centered in the north gable end and an interior brick chimney near the center of the building. Siding is plain horizontal board, painted white. The roof is covered with red asphalt shingle. Windows are generally 6/6 double hung sash, although those on the west facade are 8/8 double hung sash; most are replacements. There are several recent additions to the south and the east.

Significance

The Mentzer (Pinch) House is a multi-section, much-altered expansion of a modest one-story gable-roofed dwelling. It stands on part of a tract known as Cedar Hill. In 1906 Theodore Cooke sold a strip along the northern border of Cedar Hill to the Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis Electric Railway, for construction of that inter-urban line. Then in 1909, Cooke sold 6.88 acres just south of the new railway to Katherine Dudley Richards, and on it she built a hip-roofed bungalow. Mrs. Richards died in 1911, and the Equity Court ordered her property sold; it was advertised as including "a new nine-room house... [the bungalow], a small house with four rooms and bath [the subject house], and all necessary outbuildings." In 1916 the two-acre portion closest to the railroad tracks was divided off and sold to the Pinch family; the one-story dwelling (the subject house) was the home of the Pinches until the 1940's. In recent years, there have been many additions and changes to this dwelling. A new bedroom and two new bathrooms give it considerable additional living space, and new windows, especially across the sunporch on the west facade, give it a contemporary appearance. The house stands back from the road in a setting of old trees, an attractive residence with little remaining of its original historic character.

Acreage: 2.1 acres

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Pinch House

and/or common Mentzer House

2. Location

street & number 6601 Hillmeade Road X ☐ not for publication

city, town Bowie, Hillmeade vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Ronald and Peggy Mentzer

street & number 6601 Hillmeade Road telephone no.: 262-9718

city, town Bowie state and zip code MD 20715

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber #5296

street & number Main Street folio 96

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. P.G.#71A-24

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered (?)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			(?) possibly 1906

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Mentzer House (Pinch House) is a small one-story frame gable-roofed building (with multiple additions) which rests on a high basement. It stands on a ca. two-acre lot immediately south of the old Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis Railroad right-of-way, set back from the road in a grove of old trees. The building is believed to have been moved early in this century, and rebuilt on a new brick foundation.

The main block of the house is long and narrow, its west (main) facade facing towards Hillmeade (formerly Springfield) Road. To the rear is a dining room and kitchen ell, probably original to the structure. Entrance is in the first bay of the west facade, into the north-most of the two connecting parlors which comprise most of the main block. A shed-roof addition has been constructed along the entire west facade, adding approximately eight feet in depth to the house. The northmost section of this addition serves as an entry hall for the main entrance, and has its exterior door in the extended north gable end of the entire structure. The southmost section of this westerly addition forms a sunporch which rests on brick piers; beneath it, one can enter the basement at ground level.

There is an exterior chimney centered in the north gable end, which serves a fireplace in that end of the north parlor; an interior (larger) brick chimney rises in the east plane of the roof near the center of the building, and serves a fireplace in the northeast corner of the south parlor.

Siding is plain horizontal board, painted white. The roof is covered with red asphalt shingle. Windows are generally 6/6 double hung sash, although those on the west (main) facade are 8/8 double hung sash; most are replacements. There are several recent additions: a gable-roofed bathroom addition on the south gable end, shed-roof bedroom and bathroom additions on the east facade, and a gable-roofed screened porch opening off the east side of the dining room ell.

A separate (new) garage structure stands just to the northeast of the house, and in the wooded area to the east of the house are the foundations of an old chicken house (?) which was converted into a tenant residence during the middle of this century.

8. Significance

Survey No P.G.#71A-24

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates unknown, (ca.1900) **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Mentzer house (Pinch House) is a multi-section, much-altered expansion of a modest one-story gable-roofed dwelling. It stands on part of a larger tract known as Cedar Hill, the nineteenth century homestead of the Bowie family.¹ In 1906 Theodore Cooke, then owner of Cedar Hill, sold a strip along the northern border of his land to the Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis Electric Railway, for construction of that inter-urban line.² Then in 1909, Cooke sold 6.88 acres just south of the new railway to Katherine Dudley Richards, and on it she built a handsome hip-roofed bungalow. Already standing on the 6.88 acre parcel was a small one-story frame dwelling (possibly moved from another location), a barn, and another outbuilding.³ Mrs. Richards died in 1911, and the Equity Court ordered her property sold; it was advertised as including "a new nine-room house with all modern improvements [the bungalow], a small house with four rooms and bath [the subject house], and all necessary outbuildings."⁴ The property passed to the Dworak family, and in 1916 the two-acre portion closest to the railroad tracks was divided off and sold to the Pinch family, relatives of the Dworaks. The one-story dwelling, which is the subject house, was the home of the Pinches until the 1940's.⁵

In recent years, there have been many additions and changes to this dwelling. A new bedroom and two new bathrooms give it considerable additional living space, and new windows, especially across the sunporch on the main west facade, give it a contemporary appearance. The outbuilding to the rear (east), which had been converted into a small residence, has recently been destroyed, and only the foundations are visible. The barn has been replaced by a new garage structure. The house stands back from the road, in a setting of old trees, near the old right-of-way of the electric railway (closed just before the Second World War), an attractive residence with little remaining of its original historic character.

Survey No. P.G.#71A-2 4

Cf. Chain of title

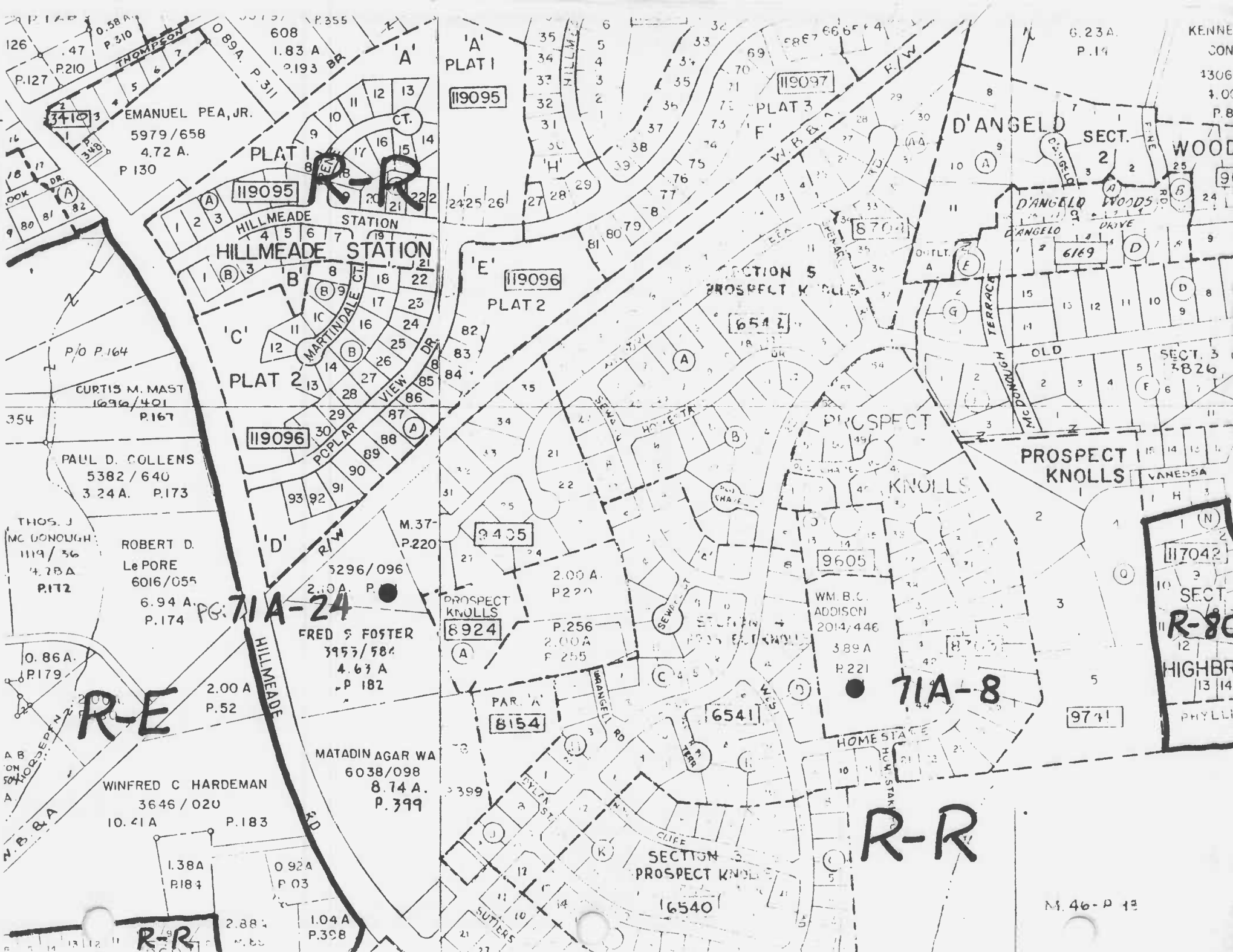
Quadrangle scale _____

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#8 (Continued)

Notes

- 1 Cf., Prince George's #71A-8, Cedar Hill.
- 2 Prince George's County Deed #30:330.
- 3 Prince George's County Deed #50:585; Prince George's County Tax Assessments, 1897-1915.
- 4 Prince George's County Equity #4059.
- 5 Cf. Chain of Title; interview with owner of Cedar Hill, December 1985.





P.G. #71A-24

Pinch-Mentzer House

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

December 1985

North elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G. #71A-24

Pinch-Mentzer House
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
December 1985
West elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G. #71A-24

Pinch-Mentzer House
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
December 1985
South elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD